

Remarks

Applicant has obtained approval of the Examiner to amend the specification after applicant receives an office action indicating the allowability of one or more claims which is anticipated after the Examiner reviews the remarks to follow. There are correctible errors in the specification which will be corrected after receiving this office action. But first, applicant will review the prior art and the main points of novelty over the prior art which are covered in the new claims 21-36 and are disclosed accurately.

Prior to the present invention as claimed in new claims 21-36, and as stated on page 4 of the specification, "Lithographic (offset) printing, unlike letterpress and flexo or gravure, utilizes a planar printing plate, i.e. one that has no raised or recessed surfaces. This one-level printing plate distinguishes it from all other processes and creates complexities and issues to contend with, not inherent in all other print processes." As also stated on page 4, "the typical, rather thin (compared to letterpress) metal printing plate in litho printing, is chemically treated in the image areas to make it water-repellant in a department of the printing plant called pre-press, or more commonly the plate room. This chemical treatment of the image areas of the metal printing plate is designed to keep water off the image areas. Keeping ink off the non-image areas is achieved by a water-based fountain solution—typically water with a wetting agent/agents, whose purpose is to make water wetter... The indirect transfer of the litho ink on the planar printing plate, and the introduction of a water-based fountain solution onto the printing plate prior to the deposition of the ink thereon, makes the current litho process more complex and difficult in maintaining print fidelity and color consistency throughout a run, than in the other three major print processes." Then, beginning three lines up from the bottom of page 4, it is stated that "The indirect transfer of the litho ink on the planar printing plate and the introduction by a water-based fountain solution onto the printing plate prior to the deposition of the ink thereon makes the current litho process complex and difficult in

maintaining print fidelity and color consistency throughout a run, than the other three print processes.” Note: The word fountain before the word solution in this paragraph is more precisely stated by the word dampening.

Then, on page 5 of the specification in the beginning of the “Summary of Invention,” it is stated that “The preferred form of my invention involves the unobvious new use of a 3-layer laminate body comprising two separate, disparate materials joined together by an adhesive (the third layer), disclosed in my USA Patent 5,771,809 issued in 1998 only for use as a means for applying coating materials onto selected areas of an already printed substrate. Before the present invention, I never thought of using this laminate body as a special printing plate.”

Note: Underlines here are for emphasis. No underline in the specification.

The Examiner rejected applicant’s claims citing Hartung et al Patent No. 5,638,752 which discloses a conventional litho printing press with a dampener, dampening solution and a rigid one-layer printing plate in combination with applicant’s prior U.S. Patent No. 6,044,761. Applicant’s U.S. Patent No. 6,044,761 discloses the use of a flexible multi-layer flexible body to apply to the substrate a water-based coating over already printed material, not an oil-based litho ink. This multi layer flexible body had never been used before to apply oil-based litho ink on a printing station of a litho press, nor did applicant conceive of this possibility in 2000 when that cited prior patent was issued.

Applicant submits that the elimination of the dampener and dampening solution from the litho process by applicant’s invention is a major contribution to the printing industry, and that nothing in the prior art read on this.

Applicant calls the Examiner’s attention to the fact that new claims 21-35 read on both the three cylinder and two cylinder per station embodiment of Figure 3, Figure 4 and new Figure 5, while new claim 36 reads only on the two cylinders per station embodiment of new Figure 5, and the right hand portion of old Figure 5. Nothing in Hartung or applicant’s prior Patent No. 6,044,761 anticipates or reveals the teaching exemplified by new Figure 5, and the right hand portion of old Figure 5.

It is respectfully submitted that any combination of the Hartung patent with the prior art which meets the limitations of the various claims is taught by applicant's disclosure and not by the prior art. Obviously, such a rejection should be reconsidered by the Examiner in light of the reasons given above.

I hereby certify that this amendment and argument is being deposited on May 31, 2005 with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents of the United States Patent Office, Alexandria Va. 22313-1450

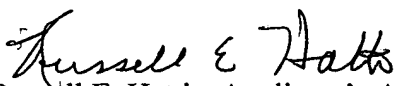

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FIG. 1
PRIOR ART

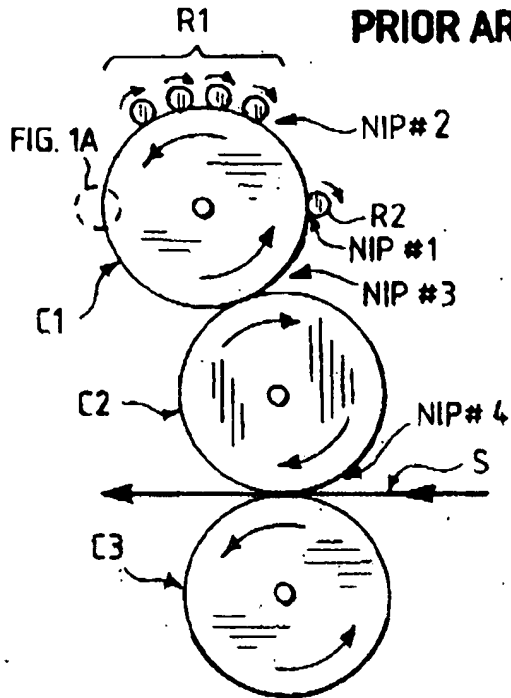


FIG. 1A
PRIOR ART

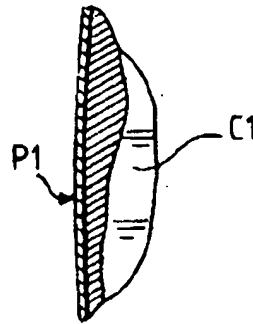


FIG. 2A

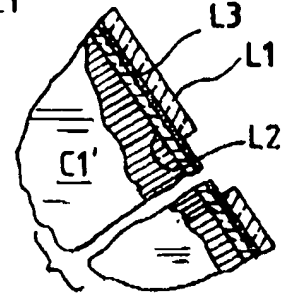
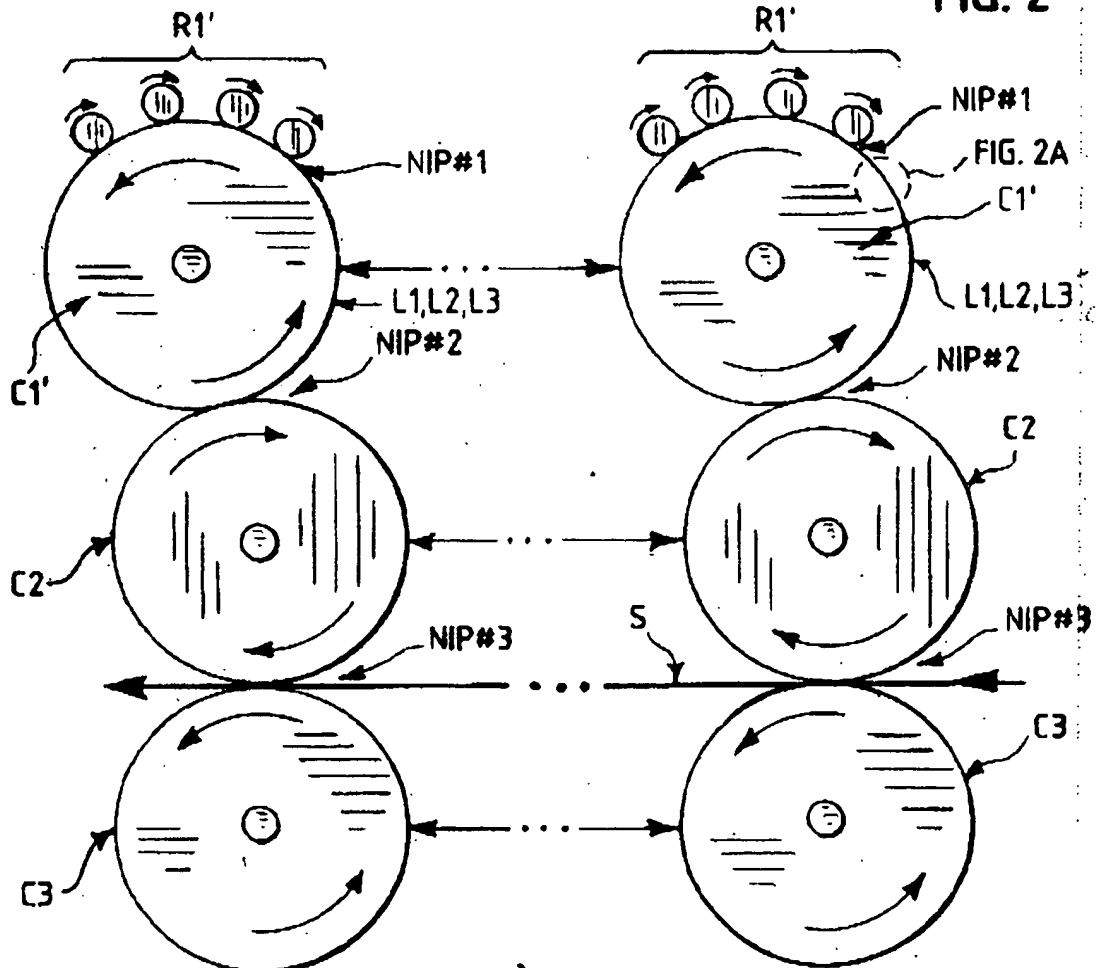


FIG. 2



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